

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

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DIME NOVEL SKETCHES No. 46

FRANK LESLIE'S BOYS' AND GIRLS' WEEKLY

Longest lived of Frank Leslie's three juvenile papers. Began October 13, 1866, to cease publication after 905 issues on February 9, 1884. Up to No. 538 it was 9¼x13½ with 16 pages. With No. 539 size was increased to 11x16. It had very elaborate and striking cover illustrations in black and white, profusely illustrated inside. Contained many reprints from English journals. Later issues featured American authors, Edward S. Ellis, Roger Starbuck, William O. Stoddard and others. Also featured new stories about Jack Harkaway and other stories by Bracebridge Hemming. Subscription price ranged from \$1.50 during the early years to \$3.50.

This "Sleuth" Business

By J. Edward Leithead

(continued from last issue)

In the Weekly, No. 1 of the black-and-white Library was reprinted as No. 11, The Bay Ridge Mystery, or, Old Sleuth's Winning Hand. No. 1 of the colorcover Weekly was The Return of Old Sleuth, the Detective, or, The Great Philadelphia Mystery. Old Sleuth tales appeared quite often. No. 10, Old Sleuth's Greatest Case, No. 11 as mentioned, No. 37, Old Sleuth's Triumph, or, The Great Bronx Mystery, one of those with a sequel, No. 38, A trail of Blood. Always plenty of references to blood, corpses, ghostly figures, graveyards, daggers, sandbags, black-jacks, assorted shootin'-irons in these tales, but you didn't worry with Red-Light Will, the River Detective or Manfred, the Metamorphosist (quick-change detective) or even Old Sleuth himself handy by—and he wasn't really old, that was just his disguise, which was somewhat on the order of Nick Carter's "Old Thunderbolt" disguise, so overdone you'd spot it immediately as such. No. 85 was Old Sleuth to the Rescue, and it had a sequel, 86, Old Sleuth, the Avenger, 118, Old Sleuth in New York, etc.

This wasn't the last time these Old Sleuths were reprinted by Westbrook, who also published an Adventure Series in book format, which ran Jesse James reprints from Street & Smith's Log Cabin Library (I'm thoroughly convinced these were not reprinted from the New York Detective Library James Boys stories), and the last Jesse James printed in Adventure Series (it was published from Jan. 1908 to April 1912) was Jesse James' Fate, or, The End of the Crimson Trail (No. 43), in which Jeff Clayton, a detect-

ive, "the man in black" of the preceding story (No. 42) brings Jesse's career to an end without benefit of the Ford boys. Nos. 42 and 43 must have been Log Cabin rewrites which made room for Jeff Clayton, paving the way for him to succeed the James Boys, since a series of stories about him started with No. 44. "William Ward," the same old stock pen-name on the outlaw series was used again, and I don't know whether Jeff was really new or a reprint from some source under another name.

It is possible that the stories about him were new; those in booklet form (for awhile) about Jack Standfast, patterned after the Merriwell tales, 58 issues, and the American Indian Series, also booklet form, 20 issues (I remember No. 1, The Magic Rifle, or, Dick Drew Against the Sioux), were all new stories. So Jeff Clayton could have been new, too.

The stories were pretty good, lasted for 34 numbers. From Nos. 44 to 49, they were all Jeff's—Jeff Clayton's Lost Clue, or, The Mystery of the Wireless Murder, Jeff Clayton's Man-Trap, or, The Inn of Terror, Jeff Clayton in the Heart of Trouble, or, The Trail of the Golden Serpent, to name several—then No. 50, The Kidnapped President, by Guy Boothby (Boothby's "Dr. Nikola" stories were good and weird). Nos. 51 to 56, Jeff Claytons; then more frequent interruptions with tales by Boothby, Fred M. White, H. Rider Haggard, Louis Tracy, St. George Rathborne AND old Sleuth reprints from the Weekly's earlier stories, for Old Sleuth Weekly itself was still hitting the newsstands regularly.

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Going back to when George Munro still owned "Old Sleuth," a series of these tales was issued in book format called *Old Sleuth's Own*. Originally published by the Parlor Car Pub. Co. (George Munro) from 1894 to 1897, ran to 131 issues. Detective tales are the most numerous in this series, naturally, but in addition there's a variety of tales from Munro story paper serials—even a couple of Westerns, No. 25, *A Little Cowboy*, or, *In Search of His Dad* and No. 95, *Allie Baird, the Settler's Son*. A *Weird Tale of the Wilderness*. No. 27 is *Flyaway Ned*, or, *The Old Detective's Pupil*, this subtitle being the same as the first title of the first Nick Carter story by John R. Coryell in *New York Weekly*. But, of course, it is not about the fabulous Nick nor by Coryell. In 1903 to 1906, J. S. Ogilvie reprinted the *Old Sleuth's Own Series*. The first 15 plates had been destroyed and consequently are among the rarest of dime novels. Ogilvie reprinted these stories in Nos. 132 to 146.

Old Sleuth Special Detective Series, Parlor Car Pub. Co. (George Munro), same as Ogilvie, was a short one, 1897 to 1898. *Old Sleuth Standard Series*, same publisher, same short life, 1897 to 1898, apparently the same number of stories in each—nine—though no duplication in the stories themselves. *Old Sleuth Special Series*, pub. by J. S. Ogilvie, 3 of *Old Sleuth's Own* (Parlor Car Pub. Co.) bound in one volume. About 50 titles.

There are 50 known numbers in the *Old Sleuth Series* published by J. Regan & Co., Chicago. The only date I have on them is 1912. Evidently the copyright on *Old Sleuth's Own* ran out without being renewed, as many publishers began reprinting the stories under many titles.

Norman L. Munro's *Old Cap Collier Library* began its long life (1883 to 1900) with *Old Cap Collier, Chief of Detectives*, by the Author of "*The Seaside Detective*," who was W. I. James. This issue at least has been lampooned by Irvin S. Cobb in his book, "*A Plea for Old Cap Collier*" (gently, to be sure) and by Edmund

Pearson in his book, "*Dime Novels*." Yes, it was comedy-melodrama, but let's not ridicule *Old Cap* too much, for he got better as he went on, and there's a special reason, which I'll later disclose, why I wouldn't want to think of him entirely as a burlesque detective character.

At first the library was issued in salmon-colored covers, size 7x9 $\frac{3}{4}$, 32 to 100 pages, price 10c. Later republished in 5c black-and-white edition, with pictorial cover. Some 10c editions in the late 80's and 90's had dark red wrappers. A large size, 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ x13, 32 pages, was published in the late 300 and early 400 issues.

I figure there are about 40 stories about *Old Cap Collier* himself, signed by W. I. James, including two or three which are reprints of earlier numbers. There are a lot besides by-lined "*Old Cap Collier*," but apparently these are about other detectives. The writers who used the nom. "*Old Cap Collier*" were W. I. James, James T. Altemus, Dr. Harry Enton, Thos. C. Harbaugh, St. George Rathborne and others.

Among the early issues were a few French detective novels by Emile Gaboriau; No. 26, *The Greatest Detective in France*, or, *Piping the Mystery of Orcival*, No. 27, *Old Tabaret, the Self-made Detective*, or, *Piping the Lerouge Case*. These are reprints of two of Gaboriau's novels, which, in hardcover editions (Scribners, I think) were entitled, *The Mystery of Orcival* and *The Widow Lerouge*. No. 37 is another Gaboriau novel, *A Great Robbery*, or, *Piping a Series of Bank Frauds*—hard-cover book title, *Other People's Money*. Later on, Nos. 51 and 52 are *Parts I and II of Lecoq, the Detective*, by Gaboriau, the book title, in one volume, being *Monsieur Lecoq*. He was the detective hero of several of Gaboriau's novels, and good detective stuff it was.

No. 14 of the library was *Vidocq, the French Detective*, by H. R. Walters. M. Vidocq was, of course, the renowned French criminal investigator whose name became a synonym for "detective."

Edward Stratemeyer wrote for this

library, using the nom. "Ed Strayer"—nos. 458, Dash Dare on His Mettle, 478, Jack Sharpley, the Always Ready Detective, 737, Placer Dan, the Yukon Detective, or, The Missing Nuggets of Gold. He used the nom. "Old Cap Collier," too.

W. I. James—William I. James, Jr.—wrote 3 Western outlaw stories in Old Cap Collier, Nos. 58, Frank James' Mistake, or, Compelled to Surrender, 128, Frank James Alarmed, or, Old Zeke, the Detective, Piping New Evidence, and 388, Rube Burrows, the Outlaw. No. 128 was reprinted in S. & S. Jesse James Stories as No. 90, Jesse James Alarmed. There was a good issue about a celebrated feud, 337, The McCoy-Hatfield Feud, or, The Famous Kentucky Vendetta, by "Old Cap Collier," whom I don't doubt in this case was W. I. James; and probably he was behind the same nom. in No. 344, The Oklahoma Boomers, or, Plotting the Great Land Steal.

Also, there were five good Indian yarns by "Wild Bill" (whoever he was, though certainly not Mr. Hickok), Nos. 391, The Death of Sitting Bull, or, General Custer Avenged, 395, Big Foot, the Fighting Sioux, or, The Doomed of Wounded Knee Creek, 396, Sitting Bull's White Ward, or, The Ghost Dancers of the Sioux, 397, Kicking Bear's Last Shot, or, The Sioux Chief's Revenge, and 402, The Last of the Sioux Chiefs.

Of course, to run 822 issues, a library used up a lot of stories and there were numerous series about detectives young and "old" besides Old Cap. One of these was Old Broadbrim, creation of or at any rate written of by St. George Rathborne. The first was No. 74, Doc Kedge, the Alchemist Assassin, or, Old Broadbrim's Great Abduction Case, by "Jack Howard" (St. George Rathborne). On these stories, Rathborne used either the nom. "Jack Howard" or "Mark Merrick." No. 92 was Old Broadbrim, the Quaker Detective, or, The Strangest Trail of Crime on Record, by "Mark Merrick." In some publisher's catalogues the sub-title of this story is listed as Solving the Madhouse Mystery. And

that's what it was when Street & Smith started the Old Broadbrim Weekly in 1902.

Old Cap Collier Library No. 102 was Tracked by Lightning, or, Old Broadbrim's Great Murder Case, by "Jack Howard," 115, The Clique of Crime, by "Jack Howard," 130, The Demon Doctor, or, Old Broadbrim Piping a Quaker City Crime, by "Jack Howard," 162, Old Broadbrim's Latest Trail, or, Tracking a Pretty Adventuress, by "Mark Merrick," 186, Old Broadbrim's Double Game, or, Revealed by Lightning's Flash (reprint of No. 102), 253, Old Broadbrim's Tangled Case, or, The Quaker Detective's Match, by "Jack Howard."

Only seven originals and one reprint of Old Broadbrim in Old Cap Collier Library, but in Street & Smith's color cover weekly, Old Broadbrim ran to 51 issues, then Young Broadbrim got on the job in No. 52 and finished up the series with No. 80. I thought that most of those in the weekly were new stories by St. George Rathborne, but it just isn't so, and I'll list herewith the issues of Old Cap Collier Library which were changed into Old Broadbrim Weekly issues:

Old Cap Collier Nos. 92 and 115 were originally Old Broadbrim by St. George Rathborne, became No. 1, Old Broadbrim, the Quaker Detective and No. 2 Old Broadbrim Fighting a Clique of Crime in the Weekly.

Old Cap Collier No. 510, Old Search's Crimson Knot, or, The Bats of Baltimore, by "Major A. F. Grant" (Thos. C. Harbaugh) was reprinted as Old Broadbrim No. 4, same title except for substituting Old Broadbrim's name for Old Search's.

Old Cap Collier No. 523, Larry Murtagh's Perilous Quest, or, Running a Gang of Assassins to Earth, by "Bernard Wayde" (Gerald Carlton) was reprinted as Old Broadbrim No. 5, Old Broadbrim on a Perilous Quest, or, Running a Band of Assassins to Earth. Of course, Larry Murtagh had to be changed into the old detective, and Broadbrim had two assistants, Harry Wilson or Young Broadbrim and Dan-

dy Dick Burton that needed to be dubbed in.

Old Cap Collier No. 489, Larry Murtagh's Brilliant Exploit, or, Tracing a Giant Bank Robbery, by "Bernard Wayde" (Gerald Carlton) was reprinted as No. 6, Old Broadbrim Chasing the Bank Thieves, or, A Brilliant Piece of Detective Work.

Old Cap Collier No. 584, Gideon Gault's Ocean Chase, or, Diamond Dannet's Daring Deed, by "Lieut. Carlton" (Gerald Carlton, the same as "Bernard Wayde") was reprinted as No. 8, Old Broadbrim on an Ocean Chase, or, The Diamond Smugglers' Great Invention.

Old Cap Collier No. 698, Old Cap Collier in the British Capitol, or, Solving England's Greatest Railway Mystery, by W. I. James, was reprinted as No. 9, Old Broadbrim Solving the Railway Mystery, or, The Millionaire's Strange Death.

Old Cap Collier No. 550, Larry Murtagh's Brilliant Case, or, The Great Wallingford Mystery, by "Bernard Wayde" (Gerald Carlton), was reprinted as No. 10, Old Broadbrim Finding the Millville Robbers, or, The Miser of Great Wallingford.

Old Cap Collier No. 588, Larry Murtagh Among the Gold Brick Swindlers, or, Fleecing the Gilded Youth of Gotham, by "Bernard Wayde" (Gerald Carlton), was reprinted as No. 11, Old Broadbrim After the Gold Brick Swindlers, or, The Blacklock Bunco Gang.

Old Cap Collier No. 593, The Mystery of Gotham Court, or, Old Cap Collier's Daring Search, by W. I. James, was reprinted as No. 17, Old Broadbrim Destroying the Swamp Angels, or, The Mysterious Crime of Gotham Court.

Old Cap Collier No. 680, The Tomb-Hunters of Tavistock, or, Larry Murtagh Solving the Harwell Mystery, by "Bernard Wayde" (Gerald Carlton), was reprinted as No. 18, Old Broadbrim Up Against Grave Robbers, or, The Tomb Hunters of Tavistock.

Old Cap Collier No. 601, Gideon Gault Among the Artful Dodgers, or, Tracing the Fagin of Gotham, by "Lieut. Carl-

ton" (Gerald Carlton), was reprinted as No. 19, Old Broadbrim Seeking the Man in Black, or, Miser Ben's School of Crime.

Old Cap Collier No. 130, The Demon Doctor, or, Old Broadbrim Piping a Quaker City Crime, by "Jack Howard" (St. George Rathborne) was reprinted as No. 23, Old Broadbrim Keeping His Vow, or, The Tangled Mystery of the Quaker City.

Old Cap Collier No. 603, Old Search's Baffling Quest, or, The Boat House Mystery, by "Major A. F. Grant" (Thos. C. Harbaugh), was reprinted as No. 24, Old Broadbrim Trapping the Foxes, or, The Crime of the Boat-house.

Old Cap Collier No. 701, Old Search's Desperate Trail, or, Who Killed Percy Manson? by "Major A. F. Grant" (Thos. C. Harbaugh), was reprinted as No. 25, Old Broadbrim on the Trail of the Iron Frog; or, Who Killed Percy Manson?

Old Cap Collier No. 733, The Mystery of Red Dragon Inn, or, Old Cap Collier's Search for an Assassin, by W. I. James, was reprinted as No. 27, Old Broadbrim Playing a Desperate Game, or, The Mystery of the Red Dragon.

Old Cap Collier No. 663, Gideon Gault's Master Stroke, or, The Mystery of Pier No. 4 by "Lieut. Carlton" (Gerald Carlton), was reprinted as No. 28, Old Broadbrim Playing a Master Stroke, sub-title exactly the same.
(to be continued)

Back numbers Reckless Ralph's Dime Novel Roundup, Nos. 1 to 237 for sale. Some reprints, all interesting, 12 for \$1.00 or all 237 numbers for \$18.00 postpaid.

Ralph F. Cummings
161 Pleasant St., So. Grafton, Mass.

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Stories of Frank & Dick Merriwell, and Tip Top Weekly, are my specialty. Have hundreds in good condition at reasonable prices. Send want list.

GUINON, Box 214, Little Rock, Ark.

A DIME NOVEL COLLECTORS BOOK SHELF

EXPLORERS OF THE INFINITE Shapers of Science Fiction, by Sam Moskowitz, 353 p. World Publishing Co., Cleveland and New York. \$6.00 Just published history of science fiction via the vehicle of biographical sketches of the more prominent science-fiction writers. Of import to dime novel collectors is a chapter devoted to science-fiction in dime novels and for the first time evidence is presented that Jules Verne borrowed from the novels (Frank Reade) for his later novels. A very comprehensive history well and interestingly written by Sam Moskowitz, a Roundup subscriber since 1959. A few minor discrepancies have crept in but not sufficient to mar the book.

Mr. Albert E. Johnson of Sacramento, whose father was a Mason, has had his interest aroused by the sight of two books of short stories by Edward S. Ellis and your editor has asked me to provide a brief note about these masonic tales.

"Low Twelve" (F. R. Niglutsch, New York—1907; reprinted by The Macoy Publishing & Masonic Supply Company, New York—1911) opens with an outline of the history of Free Masonry and contains 14 sketches with a masonic background. One sketch appears to have no masonic point and no less than nine relate to the Civil War. One sketch concerns the chase of Geronimo, another features President Diaz of Mexico and the final sketch tells the story of William Morgan, who sought to publish the secrets of Free Masonry.

"High Twelve" (The Macoy Publishing & Masonic Supply Company New York—1912) contains twelve sketches, which include a tale of the Sepoy Mutiny, with a Hindu Free Mason as its hero; five more stories of the Civil War; a brief biography of Putnam; an eulogy of Southern hospitality; the history of Tecumseh who, it seems, was a Mason; and a reference to George Washington as a Free-

mason.

Books of short stories are rarely up to the standard of an author's more important work and these two volumes are no exception; even so they are well worth the attention of any collector interested in Free Masonry.

Ellis was an enthusiastic Mason himself. Occasionally Free Masons were introduced in his fiction, but Free Masonry was never an important plot theme with Ellis.

I understand that in masonic parlance Low Twelve means midnight and High Twelve refers to noon.

It would be interesting to know if any of the other popular authors of the period wrote stories about Freemasons.

—Denis R. Rogers

NEWSY NEWS

by Ralph F. Cummings

161 Pleasant St., So. Grafton, Mass

We received the very sad news that E. Marvin Smith of Calera, Ala. passed away the 23rd of February 1963. He entered the hospital on the 18th for a bleeding ulcer operation we were all very shocked to hear of his passing. He was a great collector of Wall Street stories in Fame & Fortune, Secret Service, Pluck & Luck etc. He and his wife have been up here many times. We are all going to miss a real A No. 1 collector of these old timers, and one swell friend to all of us. His dear wife sure will miss him terribly, God bless him where ever he may be. Mrs. Smith wrote to me, also Bill Claggett, Eli Messier and others. He was H. H. Bro. member No. 38.

Bill also reported the passing of C. E. Douglas, namely Charlie Everett Douglas, age 70, who passed away on Jan. 11, 1963, a collector of Americana, and so on. He was a member of H. H. Bro. #163. He liked books in only fine condition, and so on.

George French lost his wife, also Charles Duprez, and Charlie is very very sick, drop him a get well card, his address is 228 Larch Lane, Smithtown, N. Y. He has been very sick

for most of the spring.

Corral Dust, brand book of the Potomac Corral Westerners (4106 25th Place N., Arlington 7, Va.), has lead article by J. C. Dykes, H. H. Bro. member #164. I haven't seen it yet but I understand it's a fine article.

I got in a few very low numbers of Secret Service from one of our members, and I am sure they were in very good condition, but some one had to spoil them, by rebuilding the front and back covers. Why spoil novels in nice condition when there's no need of it, I can't see it. Strips of tape all around front and back covers, why spoil good novels that are in fine condition. Makes me think of a collector that used to live up in Northern New York state, that bought up a bunch of Liberty Boys of '76 nearly all in A 1 uncut condition, and went to work on them. They weren't worth the powder to blow them up when he got done with them. If he wanted them for himself, then why did he offer them for sale, after he did the job on them. A fellow up around Troy, most of you old fellows will remember who it is—that was some 10 to 15 or more years ago.

Wm. B. McCafferty hasn't been feeling very well this spring, no one has, with the kind of weather we've had, but I guess it's no use to kick, for we are going to get it anyway.

Last winter he had our share of ice underfoot up this way, pretty well all winter, and not only up here, but everyone else has had their share of it.

WANTED

Hard cover Alger novels — Both Sides of the Continent, Ben Logan's Triumph, Dean Dunham, Dan the Newsboy, Dan the Detective, In Search of Treasure, From Farm to Fortune, Joe the Hotel Boy, Jerry the Backwoods Boy, Randy of the River, Tom Tracy, Young Captain Jack.

Charles R. Bragin

1525 West 12th St., Brooklyn 4, N. Y.

RARE EDITIONS FOR SALE

Uncle Tom's Cabin, by Harriet Beecher Stowe, 1852 published by John P. Jewett and Co., buff covers. This one believed to be a first edition, very rare, spine worn some, otherwise good. Also Fifteen Thousand Miles by Stage by Carrie Adell Strahorn, 1911 edition, fine condition. For sale to best offer made.

Ralph F. Cummings

161 Pleasant St., South Grafton, Mass.

WANTED

Beadles New and Old Friends #2, 3, 4

Edward T. LeBlanc

87 School St. Fall River, Mass.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

- 47. Capt. Frank C. Acker, Park Arlington Apts., Apt. 815, Arlington and Courthouse Road, Arlington 1, Va. (Change of address)
- 74. Miss Aurelia Scott, 580 Wilson St., Dubuque, Iowa (change of address)
- 260. John E. Murray, 331 Deering Ave., Portland, Maine (New member)
- 79. Ross R. DeVean, 3817 Chestnut St., Riverside, Calif. (new address)

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- Lunch. Famous London illustrated humor magazine. Assorted years, different dates. 10 copies \$1.00. 25 for \$2.00.
- Magnet Library (S. & S.) Below #250. Detective novels by various authors, and Nick Carter. \$1.00 each.
- Boys of England. #142 to 206. (65 consecutive numbers). Bound in cloth, part leather. Some wear. \$10.00.
- Boys of England. Some single numbers at 12 for \$1.00.
- Tip Top Weekly. Diamond Dick, Jr. New Nick Carter Weekly. All dated between 1906-1912. Sample lot of one each; three in all, \$2.25. (Our selection of dates).
- Young Men of Great Britain. Cardboard bound re-issued numbers. Volume 3, 8, 9 and 11. (About 26 numbers per volume). \$4 each.
- Young Men of Great Britain. Some single numbers, 12 for \$1.00.
- Volumes of New York Ledger available at prices ranging from \$3.50 to \$10.00, depending on condition. Some loose, some bound.
- Clothbound boys' books. Typewritten lists are issued from time to time, sent to regular customers of used boys books. At present have Comrades series, Outdoor Chums, Pony Riders, etc. Also old authors like Kellogg, Castlemon, Optic, Henty, Ellis.
- Ted Strong western novels of the young Rough Rider, thick paperback books of around 250 pages. \$1.00 each.
- Chums. All 52 numbers of 1907 bound in clothbound volume. \$7.50.
- Boys Own Paper. #247 to 298 (1883-1884). 52 consecutive, bound in cloth, hinge weak, lacks frontispiece. \$8.00.
- Living Age (Littel). An accumulation of nearly 100 numbers, between 1898 and 1920. Sold only in assorted dates, all different, 4 for \$1.00. 10 for \$2.00, additional 20c each.
- Life. The humor magazine—long out of print. Cartoon, comedy, comic pieces. Dates between 1896 and 1921. Assorted dates only, different. 4 for \$1.00. 10 for \$2.00, and more than 10 at 20c each.
- Pluck and Luck. Early numbers at \$1.00 to \$3.50 each. Later numbers, 75c, \$1.00, and up. Six Pluck and Luck containing sea novels, \$5.00. Six adventure novels, \$5.00.
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Lawrence, Mass.